

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Lori An Gobert
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff Present:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Code/Fire Assistant	-	Duane Naiser
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no public comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Filtration Project Update, and Waterline Project Update.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the City received sales tax in the amount of \$167,673 which was for June collections. The same time period last year, we received \$153,972. Both the County and Eagle Lake saw increases as well while the city of Weimar saw a decrease.

Warschak indicated the pressure testing of the filter vessel piping had been completed at each of the water plants. B&D Services and he will be meeting with the painting contractor to review the surface preparation and painting of the vessels and the attached piping. Once the painting is completed, the filters will be placed on the concrete supports at each location. After which, the final piping and electrical can be completed.

Regarding the waterline projects, Warschak stated the CDBG grant project for waterline replacement was at the TCEQ for review, and should go out for bids in October. The in-house waterline

replacement project will receive bids around the end of September. Councilman Ridlen asked about the timeline for the waterline replacement projects. Warschak stated if there were no weather or other types of delays, the replacement would take between four and six months. Councilman Swindle asked about the timeline for the filtration project. Warschak discussed the remaining items to finish the project. Swindle asked if they would all go on line at once. Warschak stated they would go online one at a time in case there are glitches needing to be worked out. Swindle asked when it would be completed. Gobert emphasized September 30th. Warschak stated he is pushing to be completed by that date.

6. Consideration and Action to Award the 2019 Street Seal Coat Project.

Warschak stated only one bid was received for the seal coat project. H&C Construction's bid was just over \$72,524.16 or \$2.16 per square yard. Last year the bid was \$1.95 a square yard, but this bid is within the budget. His recommendation was to award the contract to H&C. Councilwoman Frnka asked if they would be looking at the problem area on Montezuma. Warschak stated he would have them take a look to see if there was anything that could be done to improve the situation. Swindle asked if he was comfortable with the price. Warschak stated he was, and that the City had a long track record with this company.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to award the street seal coat project to H&C Construction. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action Regarding Use of the City Swimming Pool by the High School Swim Team.

Karin Magera from the High School asked Council to allow the swim team to use the swimming pool for their practices. They will be starting the last week of August, and hope to be able to practice there until the middle or end of October. Frnka asked where the team practiced once it was too cold for outdoors. Magera stated they go to El Campo.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to allow the high school swim team to use the City swimming pool for their practices. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Partial Closure of Crossroads BLVD from 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 6, 2019 through Saturday, September 7, 2019 for the Colorado County Fair.

Gobert asked the Police Chief if he was good with this. Chief Edman stated it has worked well in the past.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the partial closure of Crossroads BLVD for the Colorado County Fair. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and ending at Walnut Street (Highway 90), and the Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Veteran's Memorial Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Colorado County Fair Parade on Saturday, September 7, 2019.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the street closures for the Colorado County Fair Parade. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

10. **Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance Request for Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to Midnight at the Colorado County Fairgrounds for the Colorado County Fair Trail Ride as Requested by the Colorado County Fair Association.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated Saturday was the only day they indicated they would have music at the venue. Edman stated this was the first year for this event. After the trail ride they are planning to have a meal and then some entertainment. The Fair Association was hoping this event would create more interest in the fair.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the noise ordinance variance request for the trail ride. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Legion Drive Between the Large Memorial Stadium Entrance Gate to Legion Circle for All Home Football Games as Requested by Columbus Independent School District.**

Mayor Gobert stated these closures seemed to work well last year.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the street closures for the home football games as requested. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

12. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and ending at Walnut Street (Highway 90), and the Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Veterans Drive (Old Highway 90), the Closure of Veterans Drive (Old Highway 90) to Milentz Street, the Closure of Milentz Street to May Street, and the Closure of May Street to Cardinal Lane from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade on Wednesday, September 25, 2019.**

Edman stated they asked to start the parade later, but he said it was too dangerous due to earlier darkness. Edman also explained the route and the reasons for going down Veteran's Drive instead of staying on Walnut.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the street closures for the Homecoming Parade. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June Golf Association Report.

John Mangini gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated one of the greens mowers had a hydraulic leak and caught on fire. It was a total loss. The mower's value is \$10,817 with a \$1,000 deductible. Mangini stated they were waiting to hear from Wells Fargo. Mangini said they were having some good play, with 30-35 greens players per week, and he also stated the course was in great shape. Mangini also indicated the Lion's Club Tournament was set for the fall.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 195-19, a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Application to the Texas General Land Office to Provide Sewer System Improvements.

Schneider stated the application is still listed as a draft. GrantWorks indicated the location and the amount of the grant would not change, but, if public comments are received, some of the narrative questions could be modified. Frnka asked if this was the project on Rampart Street. Warschak stated it was. Frnka asked if the funding was from a grant. Schneider stated it was, and there are not matching funds required. Councilman Cummings stated unless there were cost overruns. Schneider conferred with Cummings' remark.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve Resolution 195 -19. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action Regarding the Glidden Fresh Water Supply District No. 1 Contract for Sewage Discharge.

Schneider stated she had the City Attorney review the contract, and she detailed the changes made. There was a discussion regarding the contract and pricing including the flow rate and the fixed ratio of the sewer department expenses based on that ratio.

Schneider stated she and Warschak would be meeting with Glidden and their accountant on Wednesday to discuss the terms of the contract.

Frnka asked about the sewer operations at the Industrial Park. Warschak gave an overview of the workings of the plant and Glidden's discharge. He also explained the need for this discharge in order for the plant to maintain operations. There was a discussion regarding how the rates were determined and how Glidden's use was determined. Ridlen also asked about Glidden's rate structure. There was further discussion of the change in measurement dates for the yearly CPU

indexing. The maintenance of the sewer plant was discussed, and the relationship to the rate being charged to Glidden.

No action was taken.

16. Consideration and Action Regarding the PEG Fund Account.

Gobert stated the City's PEG fund was \$37,799.57. She said she had read through the statute governing this funding from cable companies, and the City had some limited options on what they can do with the money.

Gobert stated the City could request to stop receiving these funds which are meant to establish a community access cable channel. She indicated there are no services available in our area to establish such a channel. Gobert stated she felt the City should request to stop receiving this funding. She did indicate the high school could use the funds to purchase audio/visual equipment for their community channel.

There was a discussion regarding the limitations of the fund use.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to give the Mayor authority to continue communications with the school regarding the PEG money. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

17. Discussion of Budget Workshop – Tax Rate, General/Utility/HOT Funds.

Billy Kahn, Executive Director; Kirk Lowe, President; and Susan Chandler, Treasurer, of the Chamber of Commerce presented the organization's proposed tourism budget to Council. Kahn spoke about the Chamber accomplishments over the last year, including the Magnolia Days Festival. He also highlighted some of the things they would like to carry out in the coming year. Kahn also spoke to Council regarding needed electrical upgrades on the Courthouse grounds in order to increase the number of vendors during festivals. There was a discussion regarding the HOT fund projections for the coming year.

There was a discussion regarding the trolley and the needed repairs as well as storage for the vehicle. Kahn also highlighted some ideas to set Columbus apart from other small Texas towns.

The general fund budget was discussed. Schneider stated the budget was based on a tax rate of \$0.28500, and it contained wish list items including 2 Tahoes for the Police Department; the new roof for the Library; and the equipment requests from the Fire Department.

The City Manager presented the utility repair and maintenance schedule including sewer line repairs, an upgrade to the SCADA System, water tank improvements, as well as water well rehab. Gobert stated this should get us back on track after Harvey.

There was discussion of the water line projects and the work they entail.

18. Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.28500 Per \$100 Value.

Schneider stated the rate is the same as last year, but it is considered an increase because the revenue will actually increase above what was raised last year.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion approve the tax increase and set the tax rate for tax year 2019 at \$.28500 per \$100 value. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

19. Consideration and Action to Schedule Two Public Hearings on the Tax Rate.

Schneider stated the public hearings would be publicized for Monday, September 9, 2019, and for Thursday, September 19, 2019.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to set the public hearing dates for the tax rate. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

20. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – The ravine that runs through Memorial Oaks needs to be cleared before hurricane season.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – None

8. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

9. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Mayor, Lori An Gobert

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, City Secretary

¹During this agenda item, citizens may comment for the record on items, which are not on the agenda. However, the Council may not participate in discussion or deliberation on any item that is not on the agenda. Citizens may request that a topic be added to a future agenda.

²Limited to statements. Issues raised by council members under this item cannot be deliberated by Council. The Open Meetings Act does not allow Council to deliberate items that don't appear on the agenda.